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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Agenda item 5
Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, Guatemala, Mexico, Norway, Sweden and Uruguay: revised draft resolution

Mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[2] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[3] and welcoming the efforts made by Member States to achieve the aims and objectives of those conventions and comply with their provisions,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", containing the Sustainable Development Goals, in which Member States resolved, inter alia, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; and to ensure the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
[3] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

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lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources, as well as to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/182, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which the Assembly called upon Member States to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes related to the world drug problem,

Recalling also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/1, entitled "Promoting international cooperation in addressing the involvement of women and girls in drug trafficking, especially as couriers", as well as all relevant resolutions of the Commission that underscore the need to take gender into account when developing and implementing drug-related policies and programmes,

Recalling further its resolution 55/5, entitled "Promoting strategies and measures addressing specific needs of women in the context of comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction programmes and strategies",

Recalling its resolution 58/5, entitled "Supporting the collaboration of public health and justice authorities in pursuing alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature",

Taking note of the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[4] held in 1995, and the associated Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, held in September 2015 in conjunction with the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[5] adopted in 1994,

Recalling the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[6] in which Member States acknowledged the important contribution made by women in curbing the world drug problem, committed themselves to ensuring that drug control policies, measures and interventions take into account the specific needs and circumstances that women face with regard to drug problems, and decided to undertake effective measures to ensure that women, as well as men, have access to, and benefit equally and without discrimination from, drug control policies and strategies by involving them actively in all stages of programme and policy development and implementation,

Gravely concerned about the social barriers that continue to hinder the access of women to treatment for drug use, including poverty and, in some cases, a lack of

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

sufficient resources allocated for removing those barriers; and fully aware that women are acutely affected by particular consequences of drug abuse, such as sexually transmitted diseases and by the consequences of domestic violence and drug-facilitated crime,

Aware that enhanced educational and employment opportunities for women significantly decrease the risk of their drug abuse and dependence and their involvement in drug-related crimes,

Bearing in mind the great contribution of women to the development of society and the family, and that many women are heads of household and the sole or primary caretakers for children and others such as senior citizens and persons with disabilities,

Recognizing the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters,

Recognizing also the important role played by civil society in addressing and countering the world drug problem, in particular its gender-related aspects,

Reaffirming the commitment undertaken in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[7] to end all discrimination against women, in particular by achieving equal access for women to health-care services,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to develop, as needed, and implement national drug policies and programmes in full conformity with the international drug control conventions that take into account the specific needs of women and girls, including the need for access to health services developed specifically for their needs, and the needs of women who are the sole or primary caretakers of minors and others, and to exchange information and best practices in this regard;

2. *Encourages* Member States to collect and share quantitative and qualitative data, disaggregated by age and sex, related to the world drug problem, including when providing information through the annual report questionnaire as well as when reporting to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as mandated by the three international drug control conventions, and to mainstream a gender perspective in their research and analysis on the various aspects of the world drug problem, with a view to addressing the knowledge gap on women and drug use;

3. *Takes note* of the important role that women and girls play in addressing the various aspects of the world drug problem, and encourages their contributions to the development and implementation of national drug-related policies and programmes;

4. *Encourages* Member States to take into consideration the specific needs and circumstances of women subject to arrest, detention, prosecution, trial or the implementation of a sentence for drug-related offences, when developing gender-specific measures as an integral part of their policies on crime prevention and criminal justice, including appropriate measures to bring to justice perpetrators of abuse of women in custody or in prison settings for drug-related offences, and to draw, as appropriate, on the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[8] the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules)[9] and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules);[10]

5. *Urges* Member States to implement broad-based programmes aimed at preventing women and girls from being used as couriers for trafficking in drugs and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist States in developing such programmes to counter the use and participation of women in the illicit drug trade and to take proper penal measures against organized criminal groups that use women and girls as couriers;

6. *Emphasizes* that, without prejudice to the principle of equality of all before the law, when sentencing or deciding on pretrial measures for a pregnant woman or a woman who is a child's sole or primary caretaker, non-custodial measures should be preferred where possible and appropriate, with custodial sentences being considered when the offence is serious or violent, and, in this regard, invites Member States to draw on the *Guidelines for Identification and Management of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders in Pregnancy*, produced by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, where appropriate, and in conformity with national legislation;

7. *Invites* Member States, through collaboration among health and social services, and law enforcement and justice authorities, to take into account the specific needs and circumstances of women, including by taking measures to provide safe environments for women, and to use a wide range of alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature, in accordance with national legislation, in order to improve public health and safety for individuals, families and societies;

8. *Encourages* Member States to provide scientific evidence-based substance use disorder treatment and care services that take into account a public health and safety perspective, that are sensitive to the needs of women and girls, and also encourages Member States to increase the coverage of existing programmes and to ensure access to those programmes while providing training and supervision for all relevant health and social care professionals working with women, including in prison settings, in accordance with national legislation;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to support Member States, upon request, in mainstreaming a gender perspective in their policies and programmes related to the world drug problem, and invites other relevant United Nations entities, within their mandates, to cooperate in this regard;

10. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to mainstream a gender perspective in all its practices, policies and programmes related to the world drug problem and appropriately contribute, within its mandate, to the goals and targets of Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[11] realizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and

[8] General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.
[9] General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.
[10] General Assembly resolution 70/175, annex.
[11] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

11. *Reaffirms* its request, to the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime made in its resolution 58/12, to intensify the efforts of the Office to achieve the goal of a 50/50 gender balance within the Professional and higher categories, including for field representatives, while upholding article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, by, inter alia, intensifying outreach efforts;

12. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.